

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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R 240727Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5514

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6015

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TBIO, SSPOP, IN

SUBJ: PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW POPULATION POLICY

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 5821 (B) NEW DELHI 5894

1. SOME OF THE FEARS THAT WERE VOICED LAST WEEK BY SCIENTISTS, DOCTORS AND OTHER AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY, HAVE ALREADY COME TRUE IN DELHI.

2. DELEGATES TO TO JOINT MEETING OF THE HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING COUNCILS IN DELHI ON APRIL 15-17 HAD A NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE PERTINENT POINTS OF THE POLICY ANNOUNCED BY THE UNION HEALTH MINISTER DR. JARAN SINGH, AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT THOSE POINTS THAT WERE NOT FULLY EXPLAINED. FOR INSTANCE, THE MINISTER LEFT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES RATHER VAGUE, THAT OF COMPULSORY STERILIZATION. KARAN SINGH IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FRAME ANY LEGISLATION FOR COMPULSORY STERILIZATION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE THE HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE ON A NATIONAL BASIS WAS NOT BUILT UP TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY FOR FOLLOWING THROUGH ON ANY

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EXTENSIVE PROGRAM.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THE STATES SHOULD FEEL FREE TO PROCEED WITH THEIR OWN LAWS IF ADEQUATE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM.

3. MANY PEOPLE FELT THIS WOULD LEAD TO THE STATES MOVING AHEAD WITHOUT STRONG CENTRAL GUIDELINES OR ANY REAL PLANNING. THE STATES COULD BECOME OVERZEALOUS IN THEIR PROGRAMS AND IN WANTING TO PLEASE THE CENTER. ALSO, AN ACTIVE PROGRAM OF STERILIZATION WOULD MAKE BIG STATES ELIGIBLE FOR MORE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES.

4. THESE FEARS HAVE PROVED A REALITY WITH THE RIOTS IN OLD DELHI OF LAST WEEKEND (SEE REFTEL A&B) A MEDICAL DOCTOR VISITING OLD DELHI AT THE TIME TOLD EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER THAT THE PROBLEM STARTED WHEN JUGGIES (SQUATTER HUTS) WERE BEING BULLDOZED DOWN AND THE SQUATTERS, WHO WERE TOLD BY THE DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THAT EACH WOULD BE RECEIVING 22 SQ. METERS OF LAND IN REDEVELOPMENT AREAS OUT OF DELHI, HAD FIRST TO SHOW CERTIFICATION TO THE POLICE THAT THEY HAD BEEN STERILIZED IF THERE WERE 2 OR MORE CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY. THE DELHI ADMINISTRATION HAD PASSED AN ORDINANCE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT SPECIAL PLOTS OF LAND WERE BEING SET ASIDE IN THESE NEW DEVELOPMENT AREAS FOR FAMILIES THAT WERE STERILIZED. HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF SPECIAL PLOTS THAT WOULD BE GIVEN ON A LOTTERY BASIS. THE DOCTOR CONTINUED THAT THE AUTHORITIES AND POLICE WENT A STEP FURTHER AND WERE DEMANDING FROM THE SQUATTERS A STERILIZATION CERTIFICATE BEFORE THEY WERE GIVEN A LICENSE FOR A PLOT. WHAT MADE MATTERS WORSE, THE POLICE WERE HAULING ALMOST ANY MALE ON THE STREET INTO THE STERILIZATION CAMP IN THE MAMA MASJID AREA OF OLD DELHI WHICH IS 90 PERCENT MUSLIM. HE REMARKED THAT WHAT SPARKED THE FIRST RIOTS WAS POLICE FORCING A 21 YEAR OLD MUSLIM BOY TO THE CAMP WHO WAS TO BE MARRIED NEXT WEEK. HIS MOTHER STARTED SCREAMING AND THIS SET THE CROWD IN MOTION AND STARTED A FRENZY.

5. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THE STERILIZATION CAMP IN THE AREA HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE LAST MONDAY.
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6. SO FAR NO STATE HAS PASSED ANY LEGISLATION ON COMPULSORY STERILIZATION. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE DELHI ADMINISTRATION IS FRAMING A COMPULSORY STERILIZATION BILL FOR FAMILIES AFTER 3 OR MORE CHILDREN HOWEVER, OTIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL JULY AT THE EARLIEST.

7. HARAYANA AND PUNJAB HAVE COMPULSORY STERILIZATION BILLS

BEING FRAMED BUT MAY CHANGE THEM FROM 2 TO 3 CHILDREN LIMITA-
TION AFTER THE HEALTH MINISTER RECOMMENDED THIS REPLY BACK TO

THE STATES IN HIS MESSAGE LAST WEEKEND. WE HAVE HEARD
HARAYANA IS NOW ALSO REQUIRING STERILIZATION CERTIFICATES
BEFORE GIVING DEEDS FOR HOUSEHOLD PLOTS TO POOR PEASANTS
IN SOME DISTRICTS. MARHARASTRA
IS PERHAPS THE FARTHEST ALONG WITH ITS LEGISLATION WHICH
IS NOW IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, THE BILL WILL NOT
BE ACTED UPON UNTIL JULY WHEN THE ASSEMBLY IS BACK IN
SESSION.
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